Evasion of excise duty by TATA Group

2128. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officials of the Bihar Government have detected excise duty evasion to the tune of Rs. 65,000 by a firm of Tata Group of Companies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereto; and

(c) whether any other firms in Jamshedpur were also found in evading excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The matter does not relate to evasion of Central Excise duty. It is however learnt that Bihar State excise authorities have seized methyleted Spirit in July, 1987 for alleged evasion of Excise duty.

Passing on the designs of arms to foreigners

2129. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some officers of the Gun and Shell Factory at Cossipore, a northern suburb of Calcutta, have been found indulging in passing on the designs of arms and armament manufactured at the factory to a foreigner as reported in The Hindustan Times dated the 16th July, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what are the particulars of persons involved in this; and

(c) what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES in the MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At the request of an Indian Firm the Officer-in Charge and 2 other officers of Gun and Shell Factory had a meeting with a foreign representative of a UK firm and three representatives of the Indian firm at the Inspection Bungalow of the factory on 12-6-1987. On the basis of certain information the officials of CBI confronted the foreign representative of UK firm and recovered two drawings from his brief-case One of them was identified by an officer of Ordnance Factory Board as not relating to any defence item produced in the Ordnance Factories. The other drawing was an unclassified one for seamless tubes. No report has been received from the CBI so far.

(c) Does not arise.

स्वीडिश आडिट ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट

2130. **श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी** : क्या **रक्षा** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने स्वीडन की सरकार से आडिट ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट भेजने का अनुरोध किया है जो बोफोर्स तोपों की बिक्री के बारे में है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह अनुरोध कब किया गया था और इस संबंध में अब तक प्राप्त परिणामों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में रक्षा उत्पादन और पूर्ति विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिवराज पाटिल) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां। बोफोर्स ठेके के संबंध में स्वीडिश नेशनल आडिट ब्यूरो द्वारा लेखा परीक्षा, भारत सरकार के अनुरोध पर की गई थी। स्वीडिश नेशनल आडिट ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट 4 जून, 1987 को नई दिल्ली स्थित स्वीडिश दूतावास के जरिए प्राप्त हुई थी। स्वीडिश सरकार ने रिपोर्ट के कुछ निर्णायक अंश रोक लिए थे। जैसे ही रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हुई उसे 4 जून, 1987 को समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित कर दिया गया था।

Central excise tariff

2131. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that item no.

23 of Central Excise Tariff is now changed to item number 25.02.20, if so, what is the difference between erstwhile item 22(1) of the Central Excise Tariff and presently item 25.02.20 of Central Excise Tariff;

(b) whether term 'Ordinary Portland Cement' used in above entry represents 'Ordinary Portland Cement' as described in IS-269/76 or it represents any ordinary variety of cement;

(c) whether it is sufficient for classifying as 'Ordinary Portland Cement' for the purpose of Central Excise for a product, to be in conformity with IS-269|67; and

(d) whether any other ordinary variety of cement is also eligible for classification as "Ordinary Portland Cement" under Central Excise Tariff even if it is not in conformity with IS-269|76?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Sub-item (1) of tariff item 23 of the erstwhile Central Excise Tariff, effective during the period prior to 28.2.86, exactly corresponds to the sub-heading No. 2502.20 of the new Central Excise Tariff, effective from 28.2.1986.

(b) to (d) IS-269|76 is not a part of either old Central Excise Tariff or new Central Excise Tariff. Therefore, classification of Ordinary Portland Cement' is not dependent on IS-269|76. The classification of the product is decided keeping in view its acceptance and understanding in trade parlance.

Death of Commander Navin Chopra

2132. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the circumstances under which Commander Navin Chopra of the Indian Navy died on April 18, 1987; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Commander Chopra was to have been incharge of Shishumar, the submarine acquired from West Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Commander Navin Chopra was found dead of bullet injuries in his cabin in the Western Naval Command Officers' Mess on April 18, 1987. The results of the Board of Inquiry constituted by the Navy and investigations of the Bombay Police are awaited.

(b) Commander N. Chopra was trained on SSK Class of Submarines and, in due course, would have been eligible for being posted as Commanding Officer of this class of Submarines.

Findings of Swedish National Audit Bureau

2133. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the findings of the Swedish National Audit Bureau with regard to the sale of 155 mm. field guns by Bofors to India; and

(b) what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The Report of the Swedish National Audit Bureau, as received by the Government of India, with regard to the sale of 155mm field guns by Bofors, was published in the Press on the 5th June, 1987. The observations of the National Audit Bureau, in summary, are:

"— that an agreement exists between AB Bofors and (excised) concerning the settlement of commission subsequently to the FH 77 deal and

"—that considerable amounts have been paid subsequently to, among others, AB Bofors' previous agent in India."